

Eastern Germany

SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY _____ REPORT _____

TOPIC Grosswelle-Garz Firing Range

EVALUATION _____ PLACE OBTAINED _____

DATE OF CONTENT _____

50X1-HUM

DATE OBTAINED _____

DATE PREPARED 30 October 1952

REFERENCES _____

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) 1- 1 sketch on ditto

REMARKS _____

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1. _____ the Grosswelle-Garz firing range is located on the Garzer Berg about 1 km east of Highway No 107, between Garz and Grosswelle, which is about 15 km southwest of Pritzwalk. The firing range was not marked or cordoned off. On 7 August, _____ the ground was covered with grass about 20 cm high. No buildings or earth bunkers were observed. Five targets representing two swept-back jet fighters and three four-engine planes, apparently of actual size were observed cut out into the sodded surface. Many hits were observed around the targets representing the two fighters and three hits were observed on the other targets. The hits probably occurred during the firing practices held by swept-back planes on 6 August. Splinters of a projectile were found near these targets.

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2. _____ two metallic-link ammunition belts. One of the belts contained 43 cartridges of about 20 mm caliber. No beginning or end piece could be recognized on the belt and no cartridge could be removed although much effort was applied. The base of the cartridge case were marked with red or black rings; most of them had red rings. (2) Six cartridges of about 37 mm caliber which were observed in the other belt could not be removed from the belt. _____ shortly before firing practices started, a truck with personnel would arrive from Wittstock. The squads cordoned off the danger area and ordered the farmers to leave the adjacent fields. Firing was practiced only at daytime up to about 5 p.m. When firing was discontinued, the squads left the field.

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3. In the afternoon of 5 August, air-to-ground firing was practiced by swept-back jet planes at the firing range. Formations of five swept-back jet planes, one plane after the other, attacked the ground targets. Sometimes, one of the approaching planes did not fire before climbing. Firing practice of such a formation took about 30 minutes. The next formation followed at a short interval.

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[REDACTED] 50X1-HUM

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Firing was performed with aircraft cannons and machine guns. (3) [REDACTED] 50X1-HUM
the cartridges [REDACTED] were 37 mm calibre.

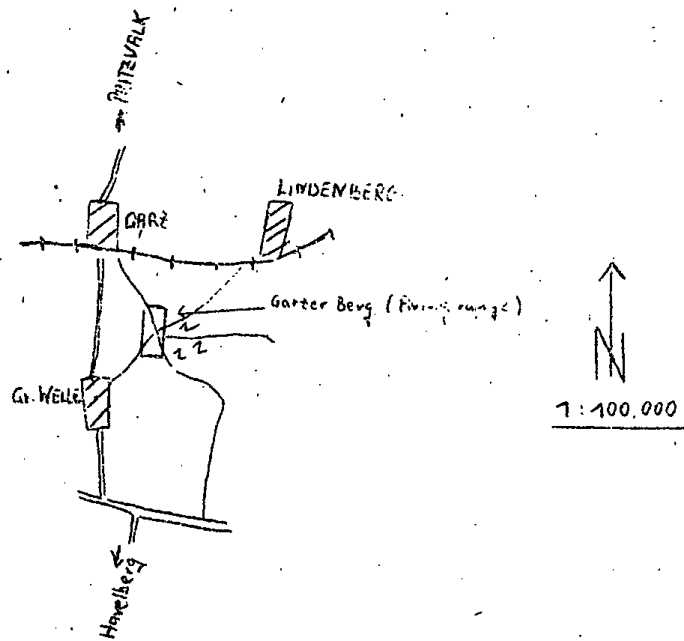
[REDACTED] Comment.

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- (1) The Grosswelle-Garz firing range is used as a training field by the fighter regiment stationed in Wittstock. For location of firing range, see Annex 1.
- (2) The different color markings of the cartridge cases indicate that incendiary and armor piercing ammunition were in the metallic link ammunition belt.
- (3) The machine guns are the 23-mm cannons two of which are on each plane. These weapons have such a high cyclic rate of fire that they can be easily mistaken for machine guns.

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Grosswelle-Garz Air Force Firing Range.



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